



ILLUSTRATION BY MAKAYLA POLAK DESIGN EDITOR

SISTAH looks to empower, educate women on campus

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

Sisterhood and empowerment — these are a couple of the founding tenets of the Northwest organization Spiritually Involved Sisters Together Achieving Harmony.

SISTAH's main goal is to educate, empower, and engage with the women at Northwest through conversations, gatherings and events. They have been an official organization on campus since 2017.

"I've been in SISTAH since my freshman year. It was always the one organization that I never stopped going to. I made sure that I was there at every meeting I could be. I thought it was a really good organization, and it's how I made a lot of my friends," SISTAH President Sydney Garner said.

Garner, a senior majoring in mass media broadcast production, said she took on a leadership role in SISTAH because she'd been a part of the organization for a while, and she wanted to contribute more to the group as she got older.

Garner described the organization as a sisterhood without the sorority. She said the group enjoys sisterhood and camaraderie without it being a Greek Life organization.

"If you didn't want to be in Greek Life, you can still have that bonding and find people on campus that you might not usually be friends with. You have the opportunity to do so," Garner said. "We can do simple things like a movie night or karaoke night and just have fun."

When it comes to the role that SISTAH has in women's history, Garner said that for the organization, discussing women's history is constant.

Campus, local track meets boost city's economy

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

“In conversations with our local hotels and motels, they were extremely happy because they are filled.”

-GREG HANSEN
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS FOR CAMPUS RECREATION

Since the opening of the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse in October 2018, events held in the facility have been boosting the numbers of people traveling in and out of Maryville. Along with the increase in visitors, there has been an increase in revenue from the city's Transient Guest Tax.

During winter and spring, Northwest hosts track meets in the fieldhouse for the University and community teams. Throughout the last four months, Northwest has held 10 track meets for the University track and field team, as well as youth meets from the teams at the Maryville R-II School District.

Greg Hansen, vice president of student affairs for campus recreation, said that hosting these events helps local tourism because people from all around the region come stay in Maryville during those meets.

"In conversations with our local hotels and motels, they were extremely happy because they are filled," Hansen said. "And that also includes, you know, St. Joe, and there's a little hotel in Mound City we've had people staying at. So we do know, just from what we hear from working relationships, that they are booked out."

Boosting tourism and providing a space that allows for community events

were a part of the original plans to build Hughes Fieldhouse. Maryville and Northwest partnered in November 2016 for the approval of the Transient Guest Tax, a 5% per night tax on hotel and motel rooms, which provided Northwest with \$3.45 million for the construction of the Hughes Fieldhouse.

The construction of the facility was planned to help with economic development and tourism by allowing the Tourism Committee to attract regional events to Maryville through the space provided by the Hughes Fieldhouse.

By bringing people into Maryville for these events, the tax allows the city to make annual payments of \$150,000 for 23 years, as outlined in the contract, to allow for certain community activities to be held in the facility.

City Manager Greg McDanel said the city's use for the fieldhouse has mainly come from indoor soccer and walking programs from Maryville Parks and Recreation, but track meets help with bringing people to Maryville.

"Track meets bring thousands of visitors to experience Maryville, with many staying multiple nights and selling out our local hotels," McDanel said in an email to the Missourian.

SEE TRACK | A4

SEE SISTAH | A4

County to partner for 911 dispatch services

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

Nodaway County will provide dispatch services of the police, fire department and ambulance service to Worth County effective June 1 after the proposed partnership was approved at a Maryville City Council meeting March 14.

Worth County sits directly east of Nodaway County and is the least populated county in Missouri, with a population just under 2,000. Worth County is the second smallest Missouri county by area, ahead of St. Louis County. It is also the youngest county in Missouri, organized on Feb. 25, 1861. The county is largely rural and far away from any hospitals, which would make a 911 call all the more urgent.

Maryville Police Chief Ron Christian said talks for providing these services began late last summer. The Worth County Emergency Services Board reached out to Maryville Public Safety, and Worth County officials took a tour of the station. Maryville officials toured Worth County's facilities as well, but the initial talks didn't pick up until later on, Christian said. Worth County had other options to consider but went back to Maryville.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

SEE 911 | A4

Maryville Dispatcher Jennifer Holtman responds to a call during her shift. Starting in July, Maryville Police Department will begin to dispatch to Worth County.

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ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

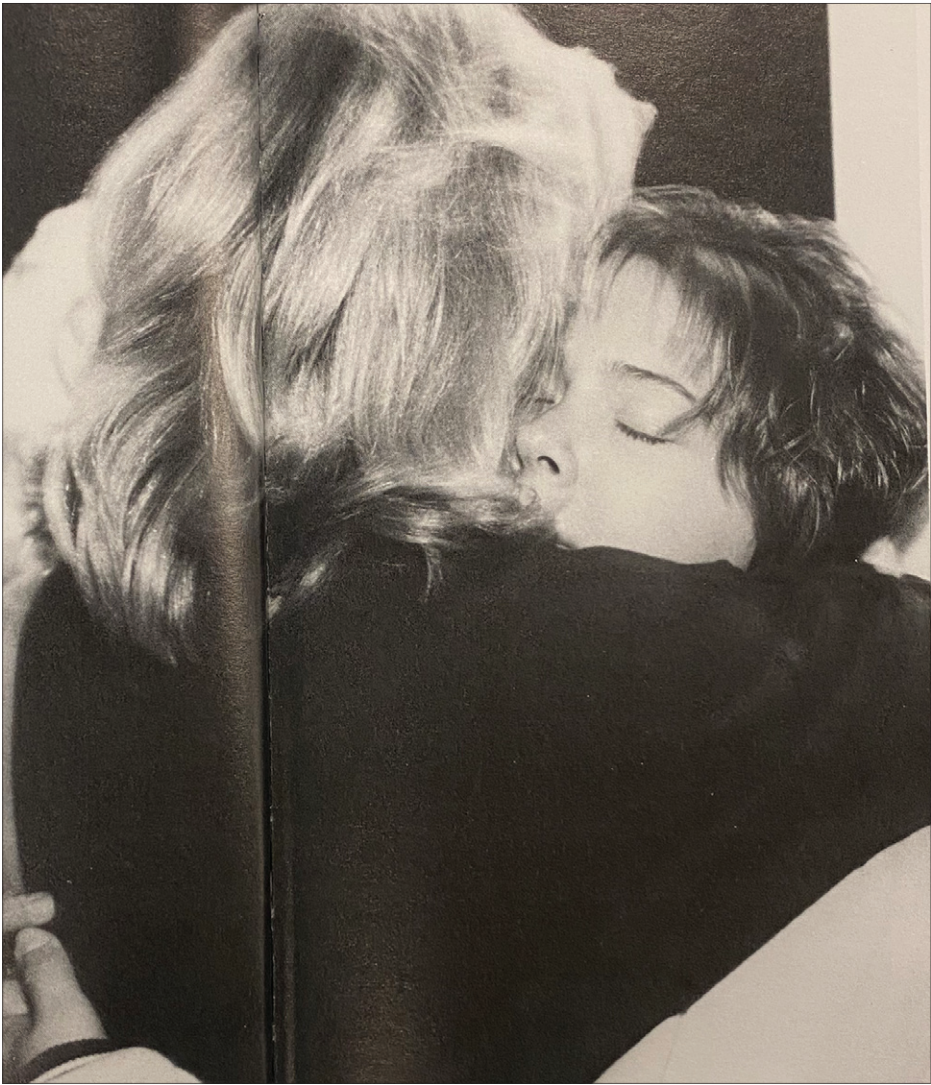
Senior Kenzie Denning practices moves she learned during the Sigma Sigma Sigma annual Karen Hawkins Memorial Week self defense class.



FILE PHOTO 1994 TOWER YEARBOOK
Karen Hawkins was a Northwest student who was murdered in 1995. Her sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma, holds an annual memorial week to raise awareness for sexual assault.



FILE PHOTO NW MISSOURIAN
Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong presents at the 2021 Karen Hawkins Memorial Week. Strong, who worked on Hawkins' case in the '90s, has spoken to Sigma Sigma Sigma and other audience members for eight years.



FILE PHOTO 1996 TOWER YEARBOOK
Tracy Wilson hugs sorority sister Tracy Sibbernson after the 1996 silent memorial walk for Karen Hawkins, a sorority sister who was murdered in 1995.

KAREN HAWKINS

Friends honor sorority sister's memory

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

The beginning of this week marked Sigma Sigma Sigma's annual Karen Hawkins Memorial Week. Karen Hawkins attended Northwest in the '90s and was a member of the sorority. In April 1995, she was sexually assaulted and murdered by one of her friends from high school.

For the last eight years, Sigma Sigma Sigma has held a fundraiser in her memory, where all proceeds go to North Star Advocacy Center to support victims of domestic and sexual violence. The sorority also hosts a silent memorial walk from the Memorial Bell Tower to Colden Pond. Sheriff Randy Strong, the lead detective on Hawkins' case, comes every year and speaks to the women of Sigma Sigma Sigma about the investigation. Each memorial week, friends, family and sorority sisters of Hawkins come to Maryville for the walk and to remember her.

Kristin Little, Hawkins' best friend, recalled her memories of the time the two spent together. Like Hawkins, Little is from Maryville and attended Northwest. She now serves as the University's campus visit coordinator.

The pair of best friends went to high school together where they quickly became friends in show choir.

"I was an incoming freshman. She was a junior, and she was always really good to me," Little said. "She would just light up a room and just be so kind to everybody."

Lydia Hurst, a Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna who was Hawkins' roommate, recalled her time with Hawkins and the influence she had on her life. She said Hawkins was always a great friend to all. Hurst said one thing that comes to mind was the many lasting friendships she had from just knowing Hawkins.

"She was always a very positive person and was trying to look out for her friends, as well as help them create new friendships around her, and she was always taking care of her friends in that way and just trying to create a lasting bond," Hurst said. "It didn't matter whether you were in the sorority or not."

Hurst, who currently serves on the Northwest Board of Regents, met Hawkins at the beginning of her freshman year in the fall of 1992. They were roommates in Roberta Hall and rented a house together afterward with some other friends. Hawkins was a year older than Hurst, and they both rushed the sorority at the same time.

"Our pledge class had a really unique and strong body," she said. Hawkins loved being outside, Hurst said, and she was ready to go to any body of water she could find, whether it was a pool or Mzingo Lake. Hurst and Hawkins went on walks together and watched a lot of the TV show "Friends" together.

"She always made sure that she pulled people along with her wherever she was going," Hurst said. "There was always a crowd around her." Hawkins was a cheerleader in high school, and although she wasn't a Bearcat cheerleader, she was always at every game she could be at, Hurst said, rooting for the Bearcats with friends.

"She was always looking for something that we could do," Hurst said. "She had friends all over, so it didn't matter where we went. There were always people."

Little said there was not a single person Hawkins didn't know. "She was kind to everybody that she ran into and would give the shirt off her back for somebody that needed something, which is exactly what got her into the situation that happened," Little said.

Along with Hawkins' compassion and positive outlook on life, Little also remembers how academically talented she was. "She'd make everybody mad because she would not have to study as much and still get brilliant grades," she said.

"People remember how kind she was to everybody," Little said. "That's what we want when we talk about her."

Hurst said everyone should try to be more like Hawkins — giving, friendly and caring.

"You can make a difference in a lot of people's lives just by simply being there or smiling or reaching out. A little bit goes a long way," Hurst said. "She definitely lived her life like that."

Regents approve yearlong renovation project for Martindale

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

After nearly four decades since the last renovation, the third floor of Martindale Hall will be undergoing renovations starting by the end of the summer, Assistant Vice President of Facility Services Dan Haslag said.

The renovations on the floor will include repurposing the 4,260-square-foot area into a lab area, faculty offices and storage areas.

Haslag said there has been a high need for the facility to better support the needs of the Health Science and Wellness building for years, but planning for the renovation project started last fall.

"Numerous areas within the building can be reconfigured and repurposed to better maximize square footage and address space deficiencies," Haslag said.

Haslag said the bidding for the project is expected to be completed by the end of this month, and once construction starts, it is expected to be a 12-month project. The whole third floor of the building will be rendered offline while construction is being done.

Currently, the third floor of Martindale Hall hosts a number of activities, one being the Bearcat Steppers' practice area. Haslag said all activities currently held in the space will have to be relocated, as this is the area that will be repurposed into labs and faculty offices.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick said at the March 17 Board of Regents meeting that this would be a phased project.

"We know there are additional things we want to do. ... We talked about it as part of our campus master plan," Carrick said. "This third-floor renovation is the first phase of a larger project."

Provost Jamie Hooymann reiterated that this is going to have multiple phases, but the third floor is the first renovation being made on the project.

“This third floor renovation is the first phase of a larger project.”

-STACY CARRICK
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

"There was concern since there is office space up there," Hooymann said. "We want to be careful that we are committing money to projects that are going to be going to the students. The part about that is ... this is phase one of multiple phases. Other parts of the phases will be more on the classrooms and things like that."

Carrick said Martindale Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus, last renovated in the 1970s.

"When we think about the School of Health Science and Wellness and the changes in programming since the early-to-mid-'70s, obviously the renovation is much-needed," she said.

The Board of Regents approved the renovation proposal not to exceed \$1.3 million. Carrick said out of the majority of the funding for the project, around \$1 million will be provided by private donors, while the other \$300,000 would come from the University's capital budget.

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★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2022

Isaiah Korthanke, new to the ballots

MAKAYLA POLAK
Design Editor | @kaypolak

Isaiah Korthanke is no stranger to helping those around him, and this year he is taking it a step further by putting his name on the ballot.

Korthanke is a property manager who started buying rentals in 2010. Two years later, his family decided to settle in Maryville.

The town has been the heart of his family for the last 10 years, with his four kids and sister here with him. Korthanke watched his community go through an immense amount of changes and decided to run for Maryville R-II School District Board to continue improving it.

After growing up in Hiawatha, Kansas, Korthanke attended Highland Community College, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Pittsburg State University and finished his education at Park University with a bachelor's in business administration and management.

Korthanke is surrounded by many different teachers in his life. His brother and sister are current and former teachers, respectively. Through his family, he sees the challenges they face. Korthanke said he knows not only are the children of the school a priority, but the teachers are a priority as well.

"My main drive is to get it to where the School Board is making decisions for the district instead of a lot of what I see is that the administration is informing the School Board on decisions they made," Korthanke said.

The administration is going to be making a lot of decisions, Korthanke said, but he believes bigger decisions should be talked about with the Board before they are made.

Korthanke has attended School Board meetings before and noticed room for growth.

"The Board has good ideas, but sometimes when they meet a wall, they don't really push that hard for it," he said. "A lot of times, the administration thinks they can't do it, and that's kind of where the story ends."

The Board candidate said he believes because the Board is elected by the community, the members should speak for them. If something needs to be changed, the Board is there to make that change.

"At least the people can have an answer from the people they elected," Korthanke said.

In-house day care

After doing research by looking at other school districts, Korthanke noticed the idea of having in-house day care for teachers.

Korthanke said a lot of teachers are young and fresh out of college, and many teachers in this age group want to start a family. Most of the time, he said, teachers go into their career path because they love kids, but then they are unable to find time to raise their own while teaching.

"It's a really small amount of money depending on what the buildings look like. It's definitely something that would be a huge benefit for a small group of people," he said.

Korthanke sees the day care as a benefit for attracting more teachers to the district. He said teachers would be more willing to work at a school with a day care that is close by and where they know the people taking care of their kids.

Four-day weeks?

It has been a discussion for surrounding local schools to switch to a four-day school week. Naturally, there has been question on whether the Maryville R-II School District will make that change as well.

Korthanke sits on the fence. He said the county has always known five-day work weeks and it

would be a change, but he is not opposed. For him, one question remains: How do parents and teachers adapt to this change?

"Say you take away Mondays, like OK, where am I gonna take my kids?" he said. "I like the idea, but I definitely see the hurdles."

Korthanke said high school students are self-sufficient and most of the time can be left at home, but the problem is finding care for children in middle and elementary school. With those children seen as too young to be left at home, Korthanke said, a day care would come in handy.

Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals in education are in the classrooms to provide behavioral and instructional support to the students in the classroom, as well as to help the teachers. Currently, paraprofessionals are working under hourly wage, but Korthanke said he would like to see these workers making a salary.

"I think paras are really undervalued for what they do for our school and what they bring," he said. "I would like to see a deep dive into seeing how we can better pay our paras and we can more approach them as teachers, rather than just an hourly worker."

Schools should want someone who sees their job as a profession rather than someone working at a day care or working on an assembly line, he said.

"They are the frontline working with the kids, and when you're paying some as hourly workers, you are kind of treating them like they are disposable in a sense," Korthanke said.

Though there may be financial battles to fight with the pay increase for these people in the School District, Korthanke said this is an uphill battle he is willing to take on.

COVID-19

Families across the globe are facing the issues of an ongoing pandemic and Korthanke saw the challenges that schools were taking on.

"The ability to learn speech and a lot of other things in early education that was needed was prevented," he said.

After seeing the data and learning that he and his family were not at high risk, Korthanke said, he wasn't too worried about COVID-19.

"I wasn't too fond of the mask mandate," he said. Korthanke said he sympathized with the toll the pandemic had on teachers and students in the district. Teachers were considered essential workers and had to continue doing their job while adapting to a fast-changing world.

"Whether you agree with it or not, these restrictions are coming to an end," Korthanke said. "We have gotten into a mindset with COVID that we have to protect you, and it's a hard one to break. So when it comes to COVID restrictions, we really should start making the Board make those decisions."

"At least the people can have an answer from the people they elected,"

- ISAIAH KORTHANKE
MARYVILLE R-II SCHOOL BOARD
CANDIDATE

CANDIDATES "ON THE ISSUES"

Four-day weeks
As surrounding schools switch to four-day weeks, Korthanke is not opposed but does see the challenges for the parents.

Paraprofessionals
Paraprofessionals in the education field are currently working hourly rates; Korthanke would like to see the district start paying them as salary workers.



Isaiah Korthanke sits with two of his four kids, Charlie and Ollie. Korthanke is running for Maryville R-II School Board in the 2022 elections.

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ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Internal Relations Vice Chair Garrison Kennedy and Internal Relations Chair Elizabeth Motazedi speak at the Student Senate meeting March 22. Senate approved an organization appropriation and recognized a new club as an official organization on campus.

Senate approves trip appropriations

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

Student Senate approved an organization appropriation and recognized a new club as an official organization on campus March 22.

The National Association of Music Education asked for an appropriation of \$550 to help provide lunch and payment for judges for its annual jazz and show choir festival.

This money was a reimbursement for the organization, as the competition was held Feb 12. Senate approved the appropriation with a unanimous vote.

The Emergency and Disas-

ter Management Club also asked to become an official organization on campus during the meeting.

Cecilia Reindhart, a junior double majoring in emergency and disaster management and human services, presented on behalf of the organization.

She said this club is important in order for emergency and disaster management majors to recruit people into the field, as well as give them an opportunity to meet outside of class and reconnect after the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It’s a pretty awesome field. It’s an up and coming one, and

it’s a very needed one in our world today,” Reindhart said.

This has been an organization on campus previously, but due to COVID-19, it lapsed in attendance and official recognition. This club is for emergency and disaster management majors and minors, as well as for anyone else who may be interested. The Senate recognized the EDM club as an official organization with a unanimous vote.

Student Activities Council Representative Brady Netzel announced the events that are planned for Northwest Week.

From 11 a.m.-2 p.m. March

29, there will be a “Coloring Books and Coffee” event. This will take place in the J.W. Jones Student Union Living Room.

From 11 a.m.-2 p.m. March 30, there will be a “Thank a Donor Day” event. This will take place at the Student Union Info Tables.

From 11 a.m.-2 p.m. March 31, there will be yard games with the Student Rec Center. This event will be at the Memorial Bell Tower.

From 7-9 p.m. April 1, there will be a paint party. This party will include live music, paint throwing and other activities. This event is RSVP only.

CRIME LOG

for the week of March 24

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

March 20
There is a closed investigation for two liquor law violations in Perrin Hall.

March 18
There is a closed investigation for two liquor violations in Parking Lot 20.

There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Hudson-Perrin Hall.

March 17
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Bearcat Stadium.

Maryville Police Department

March 23
A summons was issued to **Eugene M.H. Nelson**, 36, for failure to appear in court on the 300 block of North Market Street.

March 21
There is an open investigation for stealing by deceit on the 1100 block of West Edwards Street.

March 20
A summons was issued to **Asuncion A. De La Cruz Gracia**, 30, for driving while intoxicated and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway.

March 19
A debit card was recovered on the 400 block of North Main Street.

A summons was issued to **Madison B. Winslow**, 19, for driving while intoxicated and careless and imprudent driving on the 400 block of West South Avenue.

March 18
There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 100 block of North Vine Street.

A summons was issued to **Logan R. Hecker**, 20, for disorderly conduct on the 200 block of West Fourth Street.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Heptathlete Oscar Campos launches himself into the air for his pole vaulting event Feb. 26 at the MIAA Indoor Championships. The meet was one of the many held at Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse during the indoor season.

SISTAH

CONTINUED FROM A1

“For SISTAH, Women’s History Month is every month,” Garner said. “That’s all we really talk about. How we can become better people and empower each other. I feel like everything everybody talks about during Women’s History Month, we do that every single meeting.”

SISTAH Social Media Chair SyMaih Smith, a senior majoring in psychology, said she was inspired to take on a leadership role in SISTAH because she wanted to positively impact people.

“Not only am I helping people become better, but everyone is helping each other get better, and we’re learning together,” Smith said.

SISTAH Secretary Antanae Lee, a junior majoring in elementary education, said she took on the role in SISTAH because she wanted to help women come together and feel comfortable talking to each other.

“I think what makes us more unique is that it allows females to make new friends, and it shows females that we can all stick together,” Lee said.

Smith said SISTAH and organizations like it play an important role in women’s history by talking about what it took for women to have the rights that they do now.

To cap off Women’s History Month, SISTAH will host an event in collaboration with Black Student Union called “It’s a Woman’s Thing” March 31. This event will be a sleepover where there will be tie-dyeing, movies and games. All women on campus are welcome to attend.

911

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I think that once we get past the initial review acquisitions and get going, I feel very confident in our staff’s ability to manage this,” Christian said.

Discussion picked up again earlier this year. Worth County reached out to Maryville via the Northwest Regional Communications Center for a more in-depth proposal. As discussed at the March 14 City Council meeting, the NRCC proposed a 30-month contract between Maryville and Worth County, with a fixed cost of \$4,500 per month for the dispatches in the county. The NRCC will also pay \$500 a month for 911 routing expenses, and any equipment or software upgrades is the responsibility of Worth County. Christian said that although relatively not much happens in Worth County, the large rural areas of the small county can be serious since calls can be so far away from any medical centers.

“They’re so far removed,” Christian said, “We’re not close to a trauma center, but they’re even further away from basic life support and ambulance services.”

Christian said the volume of

TRACK

CONTINUED FROM A1

“In addition to increased (Transient Guest Tax) revenues, track-related visitors will spend money in local businesses, increasing sales tax revenues.”

All money generated by the tax outside of the \$150,000 paid to the University for the use of the fieldhouse goes to the Maryville Tourism Committee, which helps further tourism efforts in the city. In 2019, the Transient Guest Tax brought in a revenue of \$225,398 before the \$150,000 payment for the facility.

McDaniel said the success of this tax is allowing the city to hire a director for the committee.

“Track meets are critical to local tourism and were part of the original intention of building Hughes,” McDaniel said. “Any event held that brings additional visitors is highly encouraged, and we hope to continue partnering with the University to host additional events.”

calls for Worth County will be relatively low. He expects anywhere from 200 to 400 additional 911 calls a year.

“It’s not a strenuous addition to our current workload, but they will get some bad accidents, farming accidents and vehicle crashes,” Christian said. “In a rural setting, it’s very critical that they have access to a good 911 service.”

Worth County currently receives dispatch aid from Gentry County, which is also east of Nodaway County and sits directly south of Worth County. The contract Worth County has with Gentry County expires at the end of May.

Christian said he is confident in Maryville Public Safety taking on new territory but knows some training will be needed, such as learning the geography of the county and who to contact within Worth County. Communication will be key in this partnership between the two counties, Christian said, and he expects a couple of mistakes starting off but remains confident.

“It’s good that we’re not taking on somebody that gives us thousands of calls,” Christian said. “So the volume of calls that we will be adding to our own workload is not going to be overwhelming.”

“LETTERS FROM...”

INTRODUCING THE “LETTERS FROM...” PROJECT

The “Letters from...” project was created in partnership with the Northwest Missourian Editorial Board, Northwest Wellness Services and North Star Advocacy Center, and will be a part of the Opinion section. The series will run from the March 24 issue of the paper throughout the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A portion of submitted letters will be published in print, and all eligible letters during the length of the series will be published at nwmissourianews.com.

The project’s purpose is to give a platform for survivors of sexual assault to share their stories anonymously. The letters are a series of first-hand accounts of consent and sexual violence from Northwest students. We want to show them their voice matters, not only to other survivors but also to those who have not experienced sexual assault in their own lives.

We hope the project will shed light on a harrowing reality oft-ignored and undiscussed and will provide encouragement to those who read it as well. Survivors have often been maligned and ridiculed by media outlets and society as a whole. The Editorial Board, along with its partners, is seeking to use the project as an opportunity to reverse that trend.

Through this project, survivors are encouraged to be as open and honest with their stories as they wish.

Survivors wishing to share their stories can submit letters to lettersfrom00@gmail.com. We ask that submissions are free of names, quotes that could link directly to an individual, or calls to action that could harm oneself or others. Letters will be edited for grammar and AP style. If your letter does not meet the criteria initially, feel free to resubmit with edits.

Please understand that in submitting a letter, you agree that the Missourian can edit the letter for the aforementioned reasons. The Editorial Board will not edit submitted letters for content or in any way attempt to change the story we receive.

The Editorial Board, Wellness Services and North Star will not share any confidential information, including email addresses, with any outside sources. Those wishing for an extra seal of anonymity are encouraged to create a new email account to send the letter.

The email submission will remain open after the semester is over. Those wishing to submit a letter at that point are encouraged to do so, although, publication may not occur for some time.

RESOURCES:

- NORTH STAR ADVOCACY CENTER**
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- WELLNESS SERVICES**
660.562.1348
- UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**
660.562.1254
- TITLE IX AND EQUITY**
660.562.1873
- MARYVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY**
660.562.3209
- NODAWAY COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT**
660.582.7451
- MOSAIC MEDICAL MARYVILLE**
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THE FOLLOWING ARE ACCOUNTS FROM VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, WHICH MAY CONTAIN TRIGGERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR ATROCITIES. THEIR STORIES OF SURVIVAL AND BATTLING STIGMAS REMAIN ANONYMOUS. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE RESOURCES LISTED ON THIS PAGE.

FROM: ANONYMOUS

It’s taken me a long time to realize what happened wasn’t my fault, but I still feel shame when I think about it. I was 17 years old, a senior in high school. Life seemed perfect; I had it all. My grades were good, I had the best friends who I could tell anything to, and I was involved in basketball, student council and theater. My life was picture perfect and, really, it was. I had just started dating this guy that I had been talking to all year. He never failed to make me laugh, and I could trust him with anything. He was everything I wanted, and I was so excited to see where we could go together. Life was good, until it wasn’t.

I remember my boyfriend and I went to a party after a game in early December. I thought about not going; I was tired, I had work in the morning, I wasn’t feeling well. I shouldn’t have gone. We got to his friend’s house, and the party was mostly normal. I was talking and dancing with my friends, just having a good time. I had three glasses of wine and I knew I shouldn’t have, but I did.

Later that night, I remember trying to find my boyfriend wanting to go home. I remember he approached me and told me my boyfriend had already left. I tried to text him, but he offered to drive me home and I said yes. I left with him, and I don’t remember much of the drive. I woke up at some house I had never been to before with him undressing me.

I tried to stop him, but he just bent me over onto the bed. I tried to get away. I knew this was wrong. I told him no, but he didn’t stop. I begged him to stop, to take me home, but he assaulted me. That night I was just... numb. I laid there and he took advantage of me, just doing whatever he wanted to me. I couldn’t believe this happened to me. I knew him. We had been in the same class since kindergarten. I knew him. I remember

just wanting it all to end. I was in so much pain.

He took me home in the morning. I didn’t say a word to him on the drive. I didn’t go to work. I didn’t talk to anyone. I just locked myself away. The rest of my senior year was awful. He told everyone I went home with him, and my boyfriend broke up with me. I tried to tell him what happened, but he didn’t believe me. My friends made jokes about it for a while. I just stopped trying to correct them.

I didn’t go to college right away after high school. I felt like I wasn’t worth going. I really shut down for a few years, and I look back now and wish I would have spoken up more. I just didn’t know who to turn to. I didn’t want to tell my parents. My friends and my boyfriend had all decided what happened and I hated to talk about it, so I just didn’t. It wasn’t until I was at lunch with my dad and he asked if I was okay. I just broke down crying. I told him everything. I remember having to relive that experience, and it hurt. I hated it. I told myself for years that I was worthless and it was my fault. My dad said something that day that’s stuck with me since then: “It was never my fault that someone else decided what happened with my body.”

I’m honestly a little anxious sharing this story, and I still hate people knowing. But it wasn’t my fault. I still have to reassure myself that my trauma is real and my feelings are valid, but I know it wasn’t my fault. It wasn’t my fault. I hope that what I went through no one has to and that people know who to reach out to if it does.

To report a sexual assault or speak with a sexual assault advocate, call UPD at 660-562-1254. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-800-656-HOPE. For more information on the North Star Advocacy Center call 660-562-2320. The Toll-Free Crisis Line is 1-866-382-7867.

FROM: ANONYMOUS

I was just a sophomore in high school. I trusted this boy, and even though I believed he was who I wanted, he assaulted me anyway. We were at the beach in my hometown. I was in the passenger’s seat and he was in the driver’s seat. We had been talking for a while; I wanted him to be my first real boyfriend.

There was a moment before where I felt something was off, and then he climbed over and trapped me against my seat. He kissed me and put his hands all over me even though I told him no. I asked him to stop. I pleaded for him to stop. He still pulled down my pants, and I just laid there. He did what he wanted, and I remember he finished, got up and took me home like normal. I cried and I died a little inside. I was so alone. I told no one. He apologized later. He told me he loved me, and I believed him.

We dated for two years after that, but I was always afraid of him. I could never get that night out of my mind. I still think about it today. I wish it had never happened, that I never got in his car and that I could go back to who I was. But I never will.

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NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

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UPCOMING
GAMES

NW MBB

vs. Black Hills State
3:00 p.m. March 24
Evansville, Indiana

NW BSB

vs. Northeastern State
2 p.m. March 26
Bearcat Baseball Field

vs. Northeastern State
2 p.m. March 27
Bearcat Baseball Field

vs. Northeastern State
1 p.m. March 28
Bearcat Baseball Field

vs. Washburn
2 p.m. March 29
Bearcat Baseball Field

NW SB

@ Central Oklahoma
2 p.m. March 25
Edmond, Oklahoma

@ Central Oklahoma
4 p.m. March 25
Edmond, Oklahoma

@ Newman
12 p.m. March 26
Wichita, Kansas

@ Newman
2 p.m. March 26
Wichita, Kansas

NW MTEN

vs. Southwest Baptist
11 a.m. March 24
St. Joseph, Missouri

@ Wichita State
4:00 p.m. March 26
Wichita, Kansas

NW WTEN

vs. Southwest Baptist
11 a.m. March 24
St. Joseph, Missouri

vs. Fort Hays State
3 p.m. March 26
Frank Grube Courts

vs. Nebraska-Kearney
12 p.m. March 27
Frank Grube Courts

@ Missouri Western
3 p.m. March 30
St. Joseph, Missouri

NW T&F

@ESU Relays
March 24-26
Emporia, Kansas

MHS BSB

@ Maysville
5 p.m. March 24
Maysville, Missouri

@ Northeast Nodaway
4:30 p.m. March 25
Ravenwood, Missouri

vs. St. Joseph Benton
4:30 p.m. March 28
Maryville High School

vs. South Harrison
4:30 p.m. March 29
Maryville High School

MHS SOC

@ Smithville
5:45 p.m. March 24
Smithville, Missouri

@ Lafayette
5 p.m. March 29
St. Joseph, Missouri

MHS T&F

@ Lathrop
4 p.m. March 29
Lathrop, Missouri

MHS TEN

@ Cameron
4 p.m. March 29
Cameron, Missouri

@ Cameron
8 a.m. March 30
Cameron, Missouri

Softball slips during home stretch

JADEN FERGUSON
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Northwest softball went 1-3 at the Fairfield Classic in Maryville March 19-20 after losing twice to Concordia St. Paul and splitting with Winona State.

The Bearcats opened the weekend with an 8-4 loss to Concordia and turned around to meet Winona, which toppled the Bearcats 24-3 in five innings.

“It was kind of a gut punch. Honestly, it was a wake-up call for us,” Northwest coach Naomi Tellez said. “We always take pride in playing well on our home turf, and to get upset by that much was kind of a wake-up call.”

Despite the loss, Northwest (6-21) opened the second day with an 8-7 win over Winona (14-8).

The Warriors seemed to pick up where they left off Saturday afternoon, scoring four runs in the first inning.

However, junior catcher Ady Watts ignited the Bearcats’ offense with a two-run home run and brought them within a pair of runs. Northwest held Winona scoreless in the third and fourth innings, while the Bearcats racked up another three runs off a home run, courtesy of junior catcher Madison Friest and a steal by Watts.

The Bearcats had a 6-4 lead heading into the fifth inning, but that was when the game started to heat up.

“Showing that we are able to have big hits just like (Winona) can. I think it was a wake-up call to say, ‘OK, we’re in this — like really in this — and we’re going to fight to the end,’” Tellez said.

Sophomore pitcher Breck Dickey was relieved by sophomore pitcher Raven Defrain in the sixth inning after Winona took a 7-6 lead. Defrain nabbed two strikeouts in the top of the seventh to help shut out the Warriors for the rest of the inning.

With just a 1-run lead for the Warriors, tensions were high between the two teams in the bottom of the inning. Winona senior pitcher Liz Pautz struck out the first two batters for Northwest, but that was before sophomore utility Lauren Gray stepped up the plate.

“I knew, like, that’s one player at the plate that she always has a fight in her eyes; she’s gonna go up there and give it everything she has,” Tellez said. “And she was up there swinging.”

Gray’s bat struck the ball, and the collision caused the ball to soar over the left center fence — tie game.

The game was knotted at 7-7, and Northwest was gaining momentum.

Winona managed to get players on third and second base, but the Warriors were stranded as the Bearcat infield battled for three outs.

As if in a pattern, the Bearcats found themselves with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning, but freshman infielder Skylar Pieper launched a ball over the cen-



JADEN FERGUSON MISSOURIAN REPORTER
Breck Dickey, a sophomore pitcher on the Northwest softball team, explodes off the mound while pitching in the Bearcats Fairfield Classic that took place March 19-20.

ter fielder and made her way to second base. Junior utility Jacee Winn was up next and knew she could end the game.

“Skylar goes up, and she had a two pitch at bat, so it was a very quick turnaround. I didn’t really have a lot of time,” Winn said. “I’d seen the ball well all day, and so I just trusted myself. And I was like, ‘You know what? I’m going to win this game,’ and we got it.”

Winn bombed a line drive to left field, and Pieper raced around the bases with a clear path to home plate. The Bearcats got the 8-7 walk-off win over the Warriors.

“That was a huge turning point. I think it

proved that we are capable of fighting when we’re down,” Tellez said. “But the gutsiness, I think, came out of everybody and that — from the start to finish — was the most fight I’ve ever seen in our team.”

Despite the hard-fought win, the Bearcats were not able to hold onto their momentum and lost their last game of the weekend to Concordia-St. Paul (17-2-1) 11-7.

Northwest’s last nonconference game versus William Jewel was canceled due to rain, but the Bearcats will return to action March 25 in Edmond, Oklahoma, for a doubleheader against MIAA foe No. 19 Central Oklahoma.

TRACK

CONTINUED FROM A8

Cunningham also placed second in the 5,000, posting a time of 17:52.92, while junior Amber Owens placed first in the 5,000 with a time of 17:49.16.

Junior Dakota Schmidt started his 2022 track and field season with an NCAA provisional-qualifying throw of 63.57 meters in javelin, earning first place in the competition. This is the second consecutive season he has met the provisional marks in javelin.

“It was good,” Schmidt said. “The first throw was rusty, but then we just built off of that.... So, it was just nice to get out there and compete — especially with the whole throw quad being able to compete. That was really exciting getting to see everybody kind of shake off the rust.”

Schmidt said the indoor season flew by because of the high number of home track

meets and the ability to cheer on and encourage his teammates, but he said he’s ready to compete and accomplish goals.

“We want to make sure we’re a vital component to this team and can help score points at conference,” Schmidt said. “I (want to) just keep improving each and every week... I just know I have to keep working hard or it’s not going to come.”

Looking forward, Masters said they will be bringing the full team to the Emporia Relays March 24-26 in Emporia, Kansas. He said there’s a new energy with the team now that the weather’s changing and the outdoor season is starting.

“Remember that most kids never do indoor track and field — it’s a collegiate thing more than anything,” Masters said. “So a lot of our younger athletes are really excited... there’s a lot of excitement right now for our team.”

“I think the kids are ready for outdoor track.”

FINAL

CONTINUED FROM A8

“And stop hesitating, right?” McCollum said.

And as the Falcons started to defensively zone in on Hudgins, Northwest junior guard Diego Bernard opened up the Bearcats’ offense by using his aggressive, bellicose ability to

drive the lane.

That was all part of his plan, though. Bernard, knowing that Bentley entered the game out-rebounding its opponents by roughly 10 boards a game, wanted to ensure that it wasn’t a discrepancy that ended Northwest’s season. The Falcons notched 39 rebounds compared to Bearcats’ 30, but it wasn’t due to a lack of trying.

“I was just trying to come in and get boards,” said Bernard, who had the 13th double-double of his career with 12 points and 13 rebounds. “I was just trying to get in there and help our bigs, Wes (Dreamer) and Luke (Waters), get key boards and just try to control the game.”

Northwest’s backcourt tandem of Hudgins and Bernard was able to anchor down on the other end of the court, regardless of the Bearcats’ 45.8% clip on offense, and

that’s what left Lawson astonished in the aftermath of his team’s season-ending loss.

He couldn’t believe the Falcons, who brought four players averaging at least 15 points per game to the Hoosier State, were absolutely stymied in their final game of the season. Bentley finished 16-for-53 (30.2%) and 5-for-19 (26.3%) from deep.

“Both Bernard and Hudgins can really come out of nowhere and make plays off of their man — and get back to their man,” Lawson said.

“The whole week, we were just focused on our defense,” Bernard said. “We knew they had shooters. We were just trying to stay compact on our defense and stick shooters, make them take tough shots. ... The chemistry on this team, it’s just unmatched.”

Now, with a 15th-straight NCAA Tournament win in hand, Northwest will prepare to face

eighth-seeded Black Hills State University in the Final Four with a third straight trip to the National Championship hanging in the balance.

The Yellow Jackets (26-7) became the first No. 8 seed to ever beat a No. 1 seed — since the NCAA started reseeding the Elite Eight in 2016 — when they up-ended previously unbeaten Nova Southeastern’s season with a 77-67 win over the Sharks.

Despite being the heavy favorites on Thursday afternoon at the Ford Center, the ‘Cats aren’t overlooking Black Hills. They don’t want to be the latest jaw-dropping upset in March Madness.

They’re not planning on being it, either.

“I feel like the whole team is hungry,” Hudgins said. “I feel like we’re still hungry, and we just want to compete. ... We’ll see how (Thursday) goes.”

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Senior Cale Sterling from Maryville High School Track and Field attempts to make his way to first place during the Spoofhounds’ meet March 19. Returning standouts from both teams led the Spoofhounds to top-five finishes.

Maryville track and field shines in season opener

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

Maryville track and field returned to action for the Northwest Missouri High School Invite March 19 inside the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Returning standouts from both teams led the Spoofhounds to top-five finishes in the team standings.

Heading into the final event of the day, the 4x400-meter relay, four points separated Maryville boys track and first place, which was held by Lawson. The team fell short to the Cardinals after the Spoofhounds failed to score a point, but coach Rodney Bade was happy the team was that close to winning. The 'Hounds finished second with a total of 94 points.

“We were really impressed — I’d guess you’d just say happy with the effort,” Bade said. “It was a good experience for a lot of our athletes and, like I said, the effort was maximum everywhere.”

Despite bearing a heavy workload, junior Jesus Flores-Hernandez led the boys team with 26 points. He finished first in the high jump with a jump of 6 feet,

1.5 inches, about three inches off of his personal best. He continued to put on a show at the meet, and he used a gutsy kick in the 400-meter dash to win with a time of 52 seconds and 84 milliseconds. Flores-Hernandez anchored the 4x200-meter relay to a third-place finish in a time of 1:41.08, and he rounded out his performance with a fifth-place finish in the 200 (24.54).

“I really enjoy it because it’s like a change, not the same events every meet,” Flores-Hernandez said.

The boys distance medley relay, composed of senior Cale Sterling, freshman Dylan Masters, sophomore Connor Blackford and senior Jag Galapin, rumbled to a new school record of 11:21.89. The time elicited a dogpile at the finish line.

On the girls’ side, senior Brooklynn Holtman picked up right where she left off at the end of last season. She led the team, and the meet, in scoring with 30 points on the day. She secured wins in the 60-meter dash, long jump and 200, which helped the 'Hounds finish fifth with a total of 54 points.

Holtman shattered the school record in the 60 by more than

half a second with a time of 8 seconds and 16 milliseconds, which was anything but what she expected to run.

“I was very nervous for the 60 because it’s my only chance to break that record, and being so tall, my block starts aren’t very good,” Holtman said. “I remembered just to come out strong, make sure you have good form, and the fact that I was able to keep that throughout the 60 and accomplish what I wanted, it felt good.”

Holtman managed an indoor personal record in the 200 with a time of 26.20. Her winning jump of 16 feet, 3.25 inches in the long jump was just shy of her personal best with her club track team this winter.

Holtman climbed the podium three separate occasions last season at the state championships, including for her state champion honors in the 400.

“They kind of ran their hearts out already this season on meet one,” Bade said. “So you know, that is really encouraging. Obviously, performances were there too. I kind of told them, you know, if they keep this level of effort up, we’re gonna do really well.”

Northwest splits road series with Emporia State

LANDEN CRABTREE
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Northwest took a trip to Emporia, Kansas, for a three-game series against the Emporia State Hornets March 19-20.

The series started with a doubleheader, and junior pitcher Max Spitzmiller got the start for the Bearcats. He went all eight innings and struck out six of the 32 batters he faced while Northwest was handed a 3-0 loss. The 'Cats left eight runners on base en route to being shut out.

“They just scored a couple of runs in the fourth and in the fifth, and we didn’t get the win,” Spitzmiller said.

The second game of the series was a 7-5 victory for the Bearcats. The win ending a six-game losing streak for the team.

The fifth inning paved the way to victory, with the Bearcats scoring five runs. Sophomore pitcher Zach Wiese was credited with the win — his first of the season.

“I think we were able to score some runs; that’s been what’s holding us back lately,” Northwest coach Darin Loe said. “When your team ERA is six and you’re only able to put up five, you’re in a tough spot.”

Northwest dropped the final game of the series 7-3. Northwest closed the game to within a run twice before Emporia scored in the seventh and three runs in the eighth to seal the game.

“Got back on the winning track — I think starting pitching was solid, and we got good starting pitching all weekend. Started swinging the bats a little better, had a couple of guys break out and get towards the right direction,” Loe said.

The game-two victory over Emporia is the second conference win for Northwest this season.

Northwest was scheduled to travel to Rockhurst March 22, but the matchup was postponed due to weather.

Northwest will return home for a three-game series against Northeastern State this upcoming weekend. Northeastern comes into the series 17-9 on the season and 7-6 in MIAA play; Northwest comes into the series 6-18 and 2-11 in the MIAA.

This Northeastern series is the start of an eight-game home stretch for the Bearcats, seven of which will be against MIAA foes Northeastern, Washburn and Newman. Northwest will look to pick up its first win March 25 at the Bearcat Baseball Field, where the team is currently 0-4.

“I think we were able to score some runs; that’s been what’s holding us back lately.”

-DARIN LOE
NORTHWEST
BASEBALL COACH

“I think the biggest thing is, we haven’t played at home much,” Loe said. “That’s a little bit of the struggle when you’re playing on the road and the other team is getting the last at-bat. It starts to wear on you, so we’re excited to get home and play a lot of home games in front of a home crowd.”

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JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR

Northwest men's basketball junior guard Trevor Hudgins gets past a defender for a layup during the Bearcats' 61-43 win over Bentley in the Elite Eight March 22 at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana. Hudgins scored a game-high 24 points to help the 'Cats make their third straight Final Four appearance.

'Cats advance to Final Four

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Northwest men's basketball knew it was going to have a tall task ahead after being tabbed as the No. 5 seed in the Division II Elite Eight. The Bearcats were set for a matchup with fourth-seeded Bentley, a team that won the Northeast-10's regular-season title, the Northeast-10 Tournament and the East Region Tournament.

The Falcons were hoping to use their high-octane scoring attack, entering Tuesday afternoon's contest averaging 83 points per game, to reach the program's third Final Four. The Bearcats, contrastingly, knew they'd have to hang their hat on their defense if they wanted to stay on track to win a third consecutive national title.

It was the stifling defense that prevailed, though, keeping Northwest's title hopes intact with a 61-43 win over Bentley at the Ford Center.

"Sometimes we're not the prettiest of all teams. Sometimes it's just — we call it grimy," Northwest coach Ben McCollum said in the aftermath of his team's 18-point win. "Nothing pretty about it necessarily, but if you're a basketball purist, it's pretty fun to watch."

The Bearcats (32-5) held the Falcons (25-5) to a season-worst scoring output, one that was 23 points less than their previous low from the last week of January.

Bentley's 43 points mark the fewest scored in a Division II Elite Eight game since the NCAA introduced the shot clock in 1985, resetting the record that Northwest

broke with a 77-46 win over Flagler in last year's Final Four.

"I'm not gonna lie, it's definitely frustrating," Bentley graduate-student guard Jordan Mello-Klein said of the Bearcats' defensive aptitude. "I mean, we did what we could, and they were the better team today. So, there's no doubt about that."

"We ran into a buzz saw today, and that happens," Bentley coach Jay Lawson said. "I think (Northwest) is gonna have a pretty good shot at repeating again this year."

The 'Cats made it apparent from the start that they weren't going to let Bentley get any easy buckets. While trying to correct their own offensive mishaps, they didn't allow the Falcons to score for the first 5 minutes and 17 seconds.

Those opening moments were

indicative of the contest's entirety, as Bentley struggled to do much of anything — on both offense and defense — while Northwest stumbled before eventually finding its footing.

Northwest junior guard Trevor Hudgins, who was named an NABC Division II All-American a few hours before tipoff, scored Northwest's first 5 points before uncharacteristically missing his next few shots.

He bounced back, eventually going 8-for-20 en route to a game-high 24 points — the 74th 20-point game of his career.

"The coaching staff and my teammates kept my confidence up by telling me to keep shooting the ball, and eventually they'll go in," Hudgins said before an interjection.

SEE FINAL | A6

Track and field shines in outdoor season debut

DAVID DERKS
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

The Northwest track and field team didn't miss a step last weekend as it kicked off its outdoor season at the Emporia State Spring Invite March 19 in Emporia, Kansas.

Two Bearcats nabbed NCAA provisional markings, and three others placed in the top three of their respective events, as a limited team traveled and competed at a meet that doesn't usually happen.

"It's never been on the schedule, and we always want it to be," coach Brandon Masters said. "We normally get poor weather at Emporia this time of year, but — wow — what a perfect day."

Masters said the biggest reason for bringing the limited squad is because of the weather. The second reason, Masters said, is because he wants to give many players the chance to rest, especially those who just ran at the conference championships and the national championships.

The third reason, Masters said, separates track and field from any other sport.

"That's the difference between our sport and other sports is that we don't have a win/loss record," Masters said. "We need to

be great one time a year indoor ... and one time a year outdoor at conference championships, and then nationals, so it's a little bit different scenario."

Masters said the athletes are used to a heavy segment of training and that most of them don't feel ready for such an early meet.

Junior Caroline Cunningham captured first place and ran an NCAA provisional-qualifying time in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10 minutes, 57 seconds and 69 milliseconds.

"This last weekend was kind of just a rust-buster, especially for the steeplechase," Cunningham said. "It's way different from anything I do indoors, so we just wanted to get a feel for that race again. I was really excited to walk away with a (personal record)."

Last year was Cunningham's first year participating in this event, and she said it took her the whole year to learn and understand it.

This year, she added, is different, and she's ready to do the best she can in the steeplechase.

"It's a balance of being proud of yourself and demanding more of yourself, so I'm kind of in that position going forward," Cunningham said.

SEE TRACK | A6



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Finishing her record-breaking run, Caroline Cunningham crosses the finish line before the rest of her competitors Feb. 26. Cunningham captured first place and ran an NCAA provisional-qualifying time in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Emporia State Spring Invite March 19 in Emporia, Kansas.

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